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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

July 26, 1993

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AUG 20 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Lauren J. Belvin
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Belvin:

Enclosed please find correspondence from a constituent from Rocky River, Ohio. She has forwarded a copy of a letter she has received from Cox Cable, her cable company, regarding the recent cable television regulations. She would like to know how truthful Cox's letter is regarding the impact of FCC regulations on Cox Cable's service and prices.

I would appreciate any information that your office could provide in this matter. I thank you in advance for your prompt attention.

Very sincerely yours,



Howard M. Metzenbaum
United States Senator

HMM:jbd
enclosure

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AUG 20 1993

Marsha Elaine McCroden
2431 Struhar Drive, Apt. 6
Rocky River, OH 44116
(216) 331-2647

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 7, 1993

The Honorable Howard Metzenbaum
140 Senate Russell Office Building
Constitution and Delaware Avenues NE
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Proposed cable increase
Company: Cox Cable

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

I'm sending you a letter Bill and I received from Cox Cable last week. They are going to raise our rates. When we first took cable ten years ago we paid \$7.50/month. Currently we pay \$21.50/month. Cox intends to raise our rates to \$22.49 for Basic cable. Our understanding was that under the new cable regulations our bills would be frozen at a previous level and that no new increases could be pushed through for at least a year. They are going to raise our rates this month and we may lose five local television stations by October 5, 1993.

Cable is the television of the future, and large cable companies (like Cox) have a stranglehold on their customers. Like GM, they feel it doesn't really matter if they lose a few customers. There are always more. Sort of like P.T. Barnum.

Please tell me how much of this letter and is truth and how much is hype. I have a feeling they're trying to pull the same thing Bell Telephones tried nine years ago, when we bought a telephone and discovered it wouldn't plug into a Bell Telephone jack. I believe you helped us then. Can you help us now?

Sincerely,

Marsha Elaine McCroden

Marsha Elaine McCroden

mmc
Enclosure

12221 Plaza Drive
Parma, Ohio 44130
Tel. (216) 676-8300



Cox Cable
Cleveland Area, Inc.

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Dear Valued Customer:

AS YOU KNOW, CONGRESS VOTED TO REGULATE THE CABLE TELEVISION INDUSTRY.

To comply with F. C. C. regulations, we must make some changes.

- o Rates for services will change
- o Several former options can no longer be made available
- o Additional outlet line charge reduced by \$2.00/month
- o Some new choices have been implemented

Therefore, some bills will go down and some bills will go up, depending upon the services or discounts you had. The overall impact to Cox Cable is that the average cable bill remains the same.

Under the new F. C. C. "Must Carry" rules, Cox was required to add WBNX (Channel 55) to its lineup. This forced us to reduce carriage of C-SPAN 2 and Homeland TV/SCOLA to late night viewing only. We hope to carry these services full time next summer when our fiber optic system rebuild is complete. With the continued carriage of the award-winning Learning Channel, Cox still provides an excellent value of cable TV service. In addition to restructuring the cable lineup, Cox Cable now provides you with the flexibility of choosing to use a Cox Cable supplied converter or use your own. If you do not want to use the Cox Cable supplied converter, just return it to us and we will remove it from your account - no questions. This fall the F.C.C. will require us to charge for equipment.

Cox Cable has also lowered the rates for additional outlets. The additional outlet line charge has been reduced from \$3.00 per month to only \$1.03 per month (Lakewood \$1.05/month).

These changes move us closer to full compliance with F.C.C. rules. Starting with your next billing cycle in July, the rate for our most popular service, which includes Basic Cable Service and Cable Programming Services including ESPN, CNN, USA Network, plus SportsChannel Ohio, will be \$22.49 per month including franchise fees. In Lakewood the monthly charge will be \$22.92 including franchise fees.

Also, on June 17, 1993, TV Stations 3; 5; 8; 19; and 43 demanded an unspecified payment to continue to carry their programs. Cox Cable feels that is grossly unfair for cable customers to have to pay for something that others receive for free. The F. C. C. has said that only the television stations can grant us permission to carry them. If they refuse to grant us permission, we must take them off the air by October 5, 1993. We hope they won't make us take them off, because we want to be able to provide "FREE TV" to you but it is the TV stations' choice to allow us to carry them.

We hope that this letter answers your questions about how you are affected by the F. C. C. rules.

Should you have any questions, feel free to call us at 676-8100.

Sincerely,

COX CABLE CLEVELAND AREA, INC.

06/93:BC/CPS